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Water content of the oceanic lithosphere at Hawaii from FTIR analysis of peridotite xenoliths

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Although water in the mantle is mostly present as trace H dissolved in minerals, it has a large influence on its melting and rheological properties. The water content of the mantle lithosphere beneath continents is better constrained by abundant mantle xenolith data [1,2] than beneath oceans where it is mainly inferred from MORB glass analysis. Using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometry, we determined the water content of olivine (Ol), clinopyroxene (Cpx) and orthopyroxene (Opx) in spinel peridotite xenoliths from Salt Lake Crater, Oahu, Hawaii, which are thought to represent fragments of the Pacific oceanic lithosphere that was refertilized by alkalic Hawaiian melts [3,4]. Only Ol exhibits H diffusion profiles, evidence of limited H loss during xenolith transport to the surface. Water concentrations (Ol: 9-28 ppm H₂O, Cpx: 246-566 ppm H₂O, Opx: 116-224 ppm H₂O) are within the range of those from continental settings [1,2] but higher than those from Gakkel ridge abyssal peridotites [6]. The Opx H₂O contents are similar to those of abyssal peridotites from Atlantic ridge Leg 153 (170-230 ppm) but higher than those from Leg 209 (10-14 ppm [5]).

The calculated bulk peridotite water contents (94 to 144 ppm H₂O) are in agreement with MORB mantle source water estimates [7] and lower than estimates for the source of Hawaiian rejuvenated volcanism (~540 ppm H₂O [8]). The water content of Cpx and most Opx correlates negatively with spinel Cr#, and positively with pyroxene Al and HREE contents. This is qualitatively consistent with the partitioning of H into the melt during partial melting, but the water contents are too high for the degree of melting these peridotites experienced. Melts in equilibrium with xenolith minerals have H₂O/Ce ratios similar to those of OIB [9].

[1] Peslier (2010) *JVGR* **197**, 239-258. [2] Peslier *et al.* (2012) *GCA* **97**, 213-246. [3] Sen *et al.* (1993) *EPSL* **119**, 53-69. [4] Bizimis *et al.* (2007) *EPSL* **257**, 259-273. [5] Schmädicke *et al.* (2011) *Lithos* **125**, 308-320. [6] Peslier *et al.* (2007) *Goldschmidt*. [7] Dixon *et al.* (1988) *EPSL* **90**, 87-104. [8] Dixon *et al.* (1997) *JP* **38**, 911-939. [9] Dixon & Clague (2001) *JP* **42**, 627-634.